

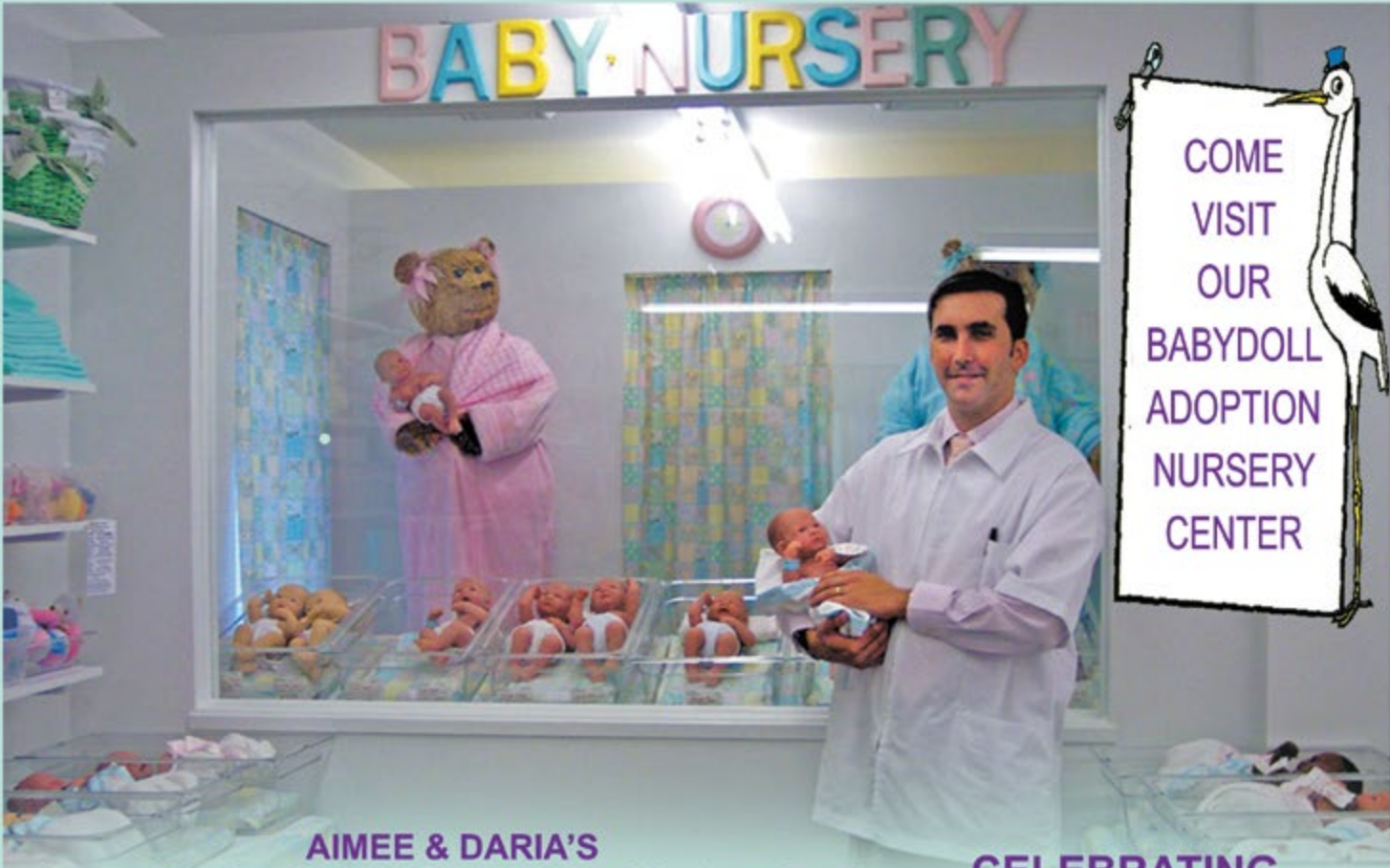
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for Details

JULY 2017

AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

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at Milking Time



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Meet Amish Craftsmen
at Their Workplace



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Travelers have been traversing Lancaster County along Route 30 for well over two centuries. And for over 70 years, a very special building has signaled their arrival in Amish Country. It has a legitimate claim on being the area's oldest visitor landmark. Most importantly, it's the "place that made shoo-fly pie famous." That iconic structure is the **Dutch Haven** windmill.

With a history dating back to the beginnings of tourism here, the building is rich in memories. From the time it started as a luncheonette in 1920 right up to the present, it has remained most famous for shoo-fly pie, served warm with whipped cream. The Dutch Haven shoo-fly pie has even been mentioned in a TIME magazine article.

Today, as soon as you walk in, you'll be offered a free sample of that same delicious, gooey pie. Some 40,000 pies are baked annually, using

the original (secret) recipe. Visitors are still encouraged to "Take one for yourself or send one to someone nice." You can buy and ship pies home at the store or at their "online shop," where you'll find other local crafts as well.

Yes, Dutch Haven is much more than pies, with over 10,000 unique gift items, foods, and

collectibles. Some of the most popular are jams, jellies, and canned goods, noodles, Amish pine furniture and cedar chests, hex signs, quilted spice mats, Amish straw hats, jewelry and gemstones, Dutch Delft tiles, Amish dolls, onyx and soapstone animals, trivets, metal stars, Tiffany lamps, Amish romance novels, framed prints, plenty of T-shirts and postcards, and a tremendous selection of Amish-made outdoor furniture. It's an eclectic mix, to say the least.

As you explore, you'll discover lots of other "surprises" around every corner. Expect the unexpected! And don't forget the Amish-style root beer in the barrel.

Remember, Dutch Haven is open every day of the week, right into the evening. Look forward to your free sample when you walk in under the welcoming arms of the windmill... for this truly is the place that made shoo-fly pie famous. 



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While visiting Lancaster County, make sure you stop in at the DOLL OUTLET. It is located on Rt 30 east, one mile east past the Rockvale Outlets. Just look for the big white building, with bright purple awnings, surrounded by beautiful Amish farmlands.

The DOLL OUTLET is the largest doll store within 1,000 miles of Lancaster, Pa. Over 5,000 dolls in stock, from 2" tall, up to 42" tall. Prices range from \$2.00 up to \$1,300.00. A doll for everyone at a price everyone can afford. You'll find dolls from a variety of different major doll companies. Their selection includes porcelain dolls, limited edition artist collectable dolls, vinyl play baby dolls and Amish dolls. You can even **MAKE YOUR OWN 20" VINYL BABY**. In 45 minutes or less, they will assist you in assembling your own baby doll, choosing your wig, diapering, and

dressings him/her. Prices start at \$55.00. Bring your camera when you visit the **BABY DOLL ADOPTION NURSERY CENTER**. You can peer through a real baby nursery window, with adorable life-like babies waiting to be adopted. Have your picture taken with your new bundle of joy. Meet the dolly nurse on duty who will give your baby a checkup with her stethoscope. Doctor's coat is available for family members. Bring your own doll, and participate in a **DOLL HAIR CARE SALON CLASS**. This is a fun, hands-on activity as you learn how to properly comb and style your doll's hair. Hair brush and salon chair provided during class. \$10.00 class fee per doll. You'll also find **miniature doll house furniture and accessories too**. Need new doll clothes? This is the place to go with a variety of sizes and styles. Aimee & Daria's specialize in clothing to fit the **American**

Girl Doll/Bitty Baby and other 18" dolls. Are you looking for AMISH COUNTRY SOUVENIRS? They

have lots of Amish vinyl dolls dressed in locally handmade clothing, wall hangings, cloth dolls, and more.

When you arrive at the DOLL OUTLET, you will be greeted by some of the friendliest people in Lancaster, PA, and you'll hear great praise and worship music. This is a store that began 23 years ago in a tiny room. It was opened only on the weekends where they sold their own personal doll collection to raise money for children in need. Now, they have expanded to three buildings! Brenda and Aimee Sheaffer (Mother & Daughter duo from the DOLL OUTLET) invite you to **stop in today and plan to stay awhile. Don't forget your camera!**

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TO LAST A
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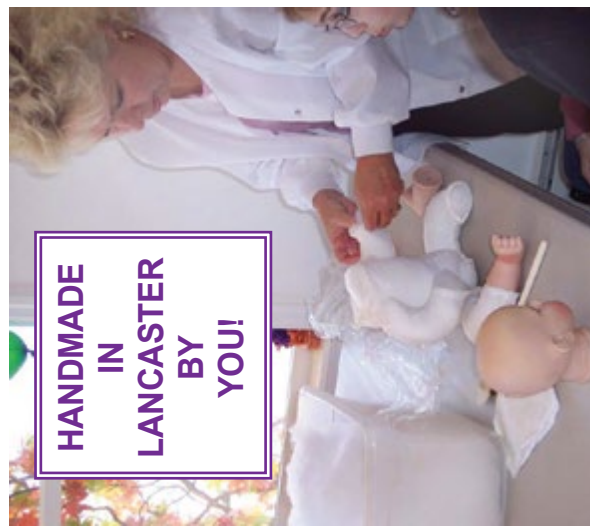
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Historic Crystal Cave Marks 145 Years

Special to AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

It was 145 years ago that the Historic Crystal Cave became Pennsylvania's first "show cave." The cave was discovered (accidentally) by a man named Samuel Kohler, who labored to transform a "wild cave" with a muddy floor and irregular breakdown to one suitable for visitors. After four months of difficult preparation, the "Grand Illumination" of Crystal Cave took place on May 25, 1872.

After paying twenty-five cents, visitors were given a torch to carry into the dark cave and an extra supply of tallow candles to carry in their pockets. Kohler created a narrative for the tour based on the romantic landscape of the

mid-Victorian era. In addition to giving names to various formations, he created myths and stories about them.

Kohler sold Crystal Cave to his 21-year-old son, David, in 1886. David held dances and hoe-downs featuring live bands in the Crystal Cave Ballroom! In 1908, the first electrical wires were installed.

At 57-years-old, David Kohler was ready to retire and in 1923 sold to J. Douglas Kaufman, Realtor, and Attorney Edwin L. DeLong. Both men continued their chosen professions while extensively marketing and renovating Crystal Cave. The cave was updated with concrete steps, macadam pathways, metal bridges and railings. A picnic park was created with over 300,000 trees. Over the years other attractions were

introduced above-ground to enhance the enjoyment of visitors.

Today, the tour begins with a movie presentation about the history of Historic Crystal Cave. A large gift shop, panning for gemstones, nature trail, and picnic facilities operate all season. During the summer, a second gift shop and museum, ice cream parlor, restaurant, and miniature golf are open daily.

Crystal Cave allows visitors to enjoy what nature has created underground. With persistent conservation and preservation of the cave, tours will continue for generations to come.

Crystal Cave, about an hour north of Lancaster, is located at 963 Crystal Cave Road, Kutztown PA, 19530. Call 610.683.6765, or visit www.crystalcavepa.com 

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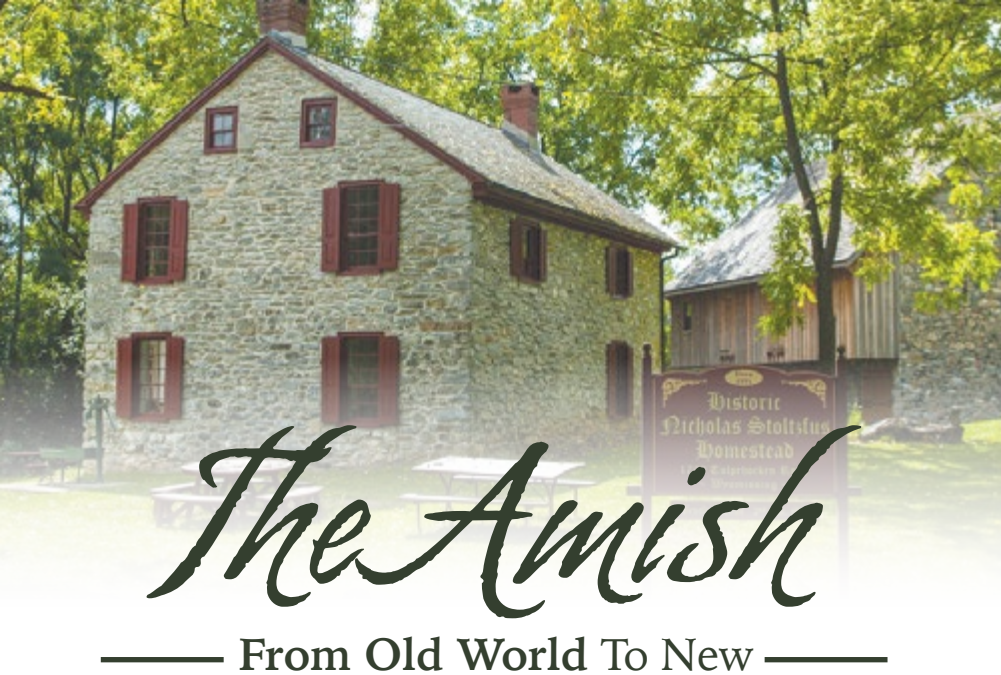
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By Brad Igou

INFLATION, POVERTY, RELIGIOUS DISPUTES, THREATS TO GOVERNMENT STABILITY, WARS...

While this may sound like a list of problems from our world today, it was also the world of 16th century Europe. In 1517, a Catholic monk named Martin Luther challenged the church's authority and doctrine, beginning the Protestant Reformation. A new invention, the printing press, and the support of German princes helped to spread Luther's ideas.

Ulrich Zwingli, a Protestant priest in Zurich, Switzerland, taught "salvation by grace through faith alone." But some followers were troubled by Zwingli's alliance with City Council. Zwingli felt God's Kingdom on earth should be established by political power. But some of his followers disagreed, and thought the church and state should be separate. They also believed in adult baptism. The Council demanded these dissenters baptize their children. Indeed, infant baptism was the main way authorities knew of the birth of children for their tax purposes.

On January 21, 1525, they secretly met and re-baptized each other to signify an adult commitment to their faith, and a Church not part of the State. Their radical acts challenged the unity and authority of both.

The results? They were hunted down, threatened, exiled, tortured, sold into slavery, branded, burned at the stake, drowned, or dismembered. A book of some 1200 pages was printed in the year 1660 in Holland to preserve the stories of hundreds of these Anabaptists (re-baptizers) who chose to suffer rather than to resist. Called the MARTYRS MIRROR, it is still found in many Amish homes today.

Of the hundreds of stories, perhaps the most profound is that of Dirck Willems. Pursued by an Anabaptist hunter across frozen water, his captor fell through the ice. Willems, rather

than escaping, returned to save his captor's life. Willems, however, was taken into custody and later burned at the stake.

The Anabaptist faith of these Swiss Brethren spread from Switzerland to Germany and the Netherlands. In the following years, thousands of these Anabaptists were put to death by both Protestants and Catholics, who viewed them as dangerous radicals for various reasons. These experiences ingrained in them a suspicion of the world and government, as well as humility and a belief in separateness from and denial of the violence around them. Leaders of the Anabaptists groups met to record their beliefs in adult baptism and discipline by and within the church. The Dutch Anabaptist document of 1632 known as the DORDRECHT CONFESSION remains to this day as the key statement of Amish "doctrine."

Some of the imprisoned Anabaptists set to writing hymns in their cells. These were soon printed and, with the addition of others, became the AUSBUND, the hymnbook still used by the Amish today, some 400 years since these words were written...

*We wander in the forest dark,
With dogs upon our track;
And like the silent, captive lamb
Men bring us, prisoners, back.
They point to us amid the throng,
And with their taunts offend;
And long to let the sharpened ax
On heretics descend.*

The greatest of the Anabaptist writers was former Dutch Catholic priest Menno Simons. From his name, the followers later became known as Mennists and Mennonites. Simons wrote of the need to avoid or shun some of the Anabaptists who had opted for violence in spreading their views. Of his life he wrote...

For 18 years now I, my poor feeble wife, and little children have endured extreme anxiety, oppression, affliction, misery and persecution; and at the peril of my life have been compelled everywhere to live in fear and seclusion. Yea, while the State ministers rest on beds of ease and soft pillows, we generally have to hide ourselves; while they appear at weddings and banquets with pipe and lute, we must be on guard when dogs bark lest the captors be at hand; while they have large incomes and easy times, our pay is fire, sword, and death.

By the late 1600's, disagreements arose in the church over reforms, shunning, and church discipline. An Anabaptist elder born in Switzerland, Jakob Ammann, and his followers ended up breaking away in 1693. This conservative faction later became known as the Amish.

William Penn, an English Quaker once himself imprisoned for his beliefs, was forming a colony based on religious freedom in the New World. It was called Penn's Woods, or Pennsylvania. His land agents invited many of the persecuted religious minorities to come to America. The Mennonites and Amish started arriving in the early 1700's. The journey across the seas was a long and perilous one, lasting two to three months. Many people died from disease before they had even reached the New World. Of such voyages, we have these words from a passenger diary kept on the ship "Charming Nancy" in 1737...

On the 29th of July, three children died. On the first of August my Hanseli died, and the Tuesday previous five children died. On the 3rd of August, contrary winds beset the vessel and from the first to the 7th of the month three more children died... Landed in Philadelphia on September the 18th, and my wife and I left the ship on the 19th. A child was born to us on the 20th - died - wife recovered. A voyage of 83 days.

One day in October in the 1760's, Nicholas Stoltzfus of Germany arrived in Philadelphia as well. Today, nearly 1,000 families in Lancaster bear his name, along with others such as King, Fisher, Beiler, Esh, Lapp, and Glick. Each arrived with a unique story; each came with the hope for a better life. As one contemporary Amish author has written...*Men and women struggled to know the will of God, and to live it. True faith in the sixteenth century was not easy. Nor is it easy today in the twentieth century. The cost is still the same --whole-hearted devotion and obedience to God. Temptations have not lessened, nor even changed, in 400 years. The decisions of our forefathers are the decisions that we face today.* 

EDITOR'S NOTE: An excellent depiction of the Amish beginnings can be seen in the five screen, special effects viewing of "Jacob's Choice" at the Amish Experience Theater between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse at the eastern end of Plain and Fancy Farm.

Antiquing in Amish Country

Photo courtesy of DiscoverLancaster.com

by Brad Igou

What makes Lancaster County such a great place to “go antiquing?” One obvious answer would be that this area has a rich history going back hundreds of years to the first settlers in the early 1700’s. Many of us have stuff in our attics that we have forgotten about. Who knows what may be there waiting for an appearance on “Antiques Roadshow?”

Did you know that the **Adamstown** area alone has over 3,000 antiques dealers, and is

known as “Antiques Capital, U.S.A.” The many locations stretch out along Route 272, just off Pennsylvania Turnpike Exit 286, such as **Shupp’s Grove** with its themed weekends, in a beautiful location among a grove of trees.

Renninger’s Antique Market, is another Adamstown original, known for being the first stop for dealers and buyers when shopping in Adamstown. Every Sunday before the birds get up, activity is already starting at **Renninger’s Antique Market**. Dealer after dealer arrive and begin to set up. You can feel the quiet frenzy of

panic as buyers move around trying to view as much as possible. Suddenly you look at your watch and realize the indoor market is about to open...more fresh merchandise. You enter the indoor market with confidence that you have found the mother lode of Antiques and Collectibles.

And **Paradise** wouldn’t live up to its name along Route 30 in Lancaster without some antique stores. Popular with visitors is the **Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall**, with 26,000 square feet of merchandise from over 125 dealers — an antique hunters Paradise indeed!

Most of the antique shops are open on Sundays, making this an excellent weekend activity, whether you stay overnight or just drive in for the day. As the folks at **Shupp’s Grove** like to say, it’s all about “the thrill of the hunt and the euphoria of the big find!” 



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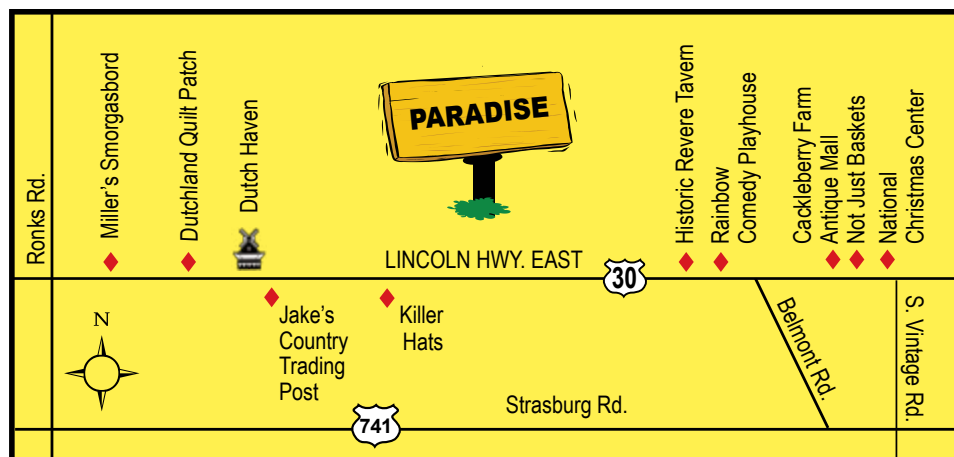


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Welcome to Our Paradise



Visitors to Lancaster from the east on Route 30 travel through Paradise. The town's story traces back to Europe over 300 years ago, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany where Protestants had settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. Fearing a French invasion, many accepted the invitation to settle in the New World in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods. By 1712, they had secured land in Lancaster's Pequea Valley

as the area's first white people, living peaceably with local Indians.

The origins of Route 30, also known as "Lincoln Highway," date back to Lancaster's Colonial days when the frontier county needed a highway to connect it with the provincial capital of Philadelphia. The first road that was constructed is now Route 340, still referred to as the "Old Philadelphia Pike."

Soon, it was apparent that the Philadelphia Pike was insufficient to handle the increasing

traffic, and in 1790, a commission to survey a new route between Lancaster and Philadelphia was created. Since the cost of such a road was too much for the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand "reasonable" tolls from users. Investors received dividends earned from tolls collected along the gates of the turnpike. (As the toll was paid, the gate or "pike" was turned, hence the term "turnpike"). The "Lincoln Highway" (Route 30) opened in 1795 as the first long-distance, hard surfaced road in the country.

Taverns and stagecoach stops grew up along the turnpike for weary travelers. Of these, the Revere Tavern, dating back to 1740 and originally called the "Sign of the Spread Eagle," still proudly stands today. In 1841, the tavern became the residence of Reverend Edward V. Buchanan and his wife Eliza Foster Buchanan.

Eliza was the sister of Stephen Foster, whose immortal songs will always be a part of Americana. Foster not only penned music at the tavern, but sent many of his manuscripts to Eliza, also a talented musician, for her approval. On the banks of the Pequea Creek, Eliza and Stephen played many of Stephen's 200 songs, including "Way Down Upon the Swanee River" and "Oh! Susanna."

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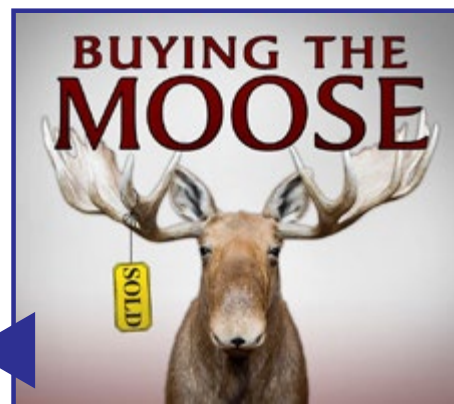


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Don't Pass the Giant Pretzel

By Caleb Bressler

When strolling the picturesque streets in the town of Lititz, keep an eye out for the giant pretzel on Main Street. The landmark denotes the entrance to Julius Sturgis, the country's oldest commercial pretzel bakery. I recommend stepping inside and, regardless of your state of hunger, trying one of the homemade soft pretzels or, if you prefer, choose a bag of hard pretzels in various flavors.

Named after the founder, Julius Sturgis initially operated a traditional bakery there in the 1850s. He switched to making pretzels in 1861 and Sturgis has been a pretzel "factory" ever since. Mr. Rogers even visited during an episode of his TV show *Mr. Rogers Neighborhood*. It really was a beautiful day in the neighborhood!

Be sure to take a tour to explore the old bakery and brick ovens where the pretzels were first made. On this behind-the-scenes tour, you even get to twist the Sturgis dough into a classic pretzel shape. (It's not as easy as you might think!) While the dough you twist will not actually be baked into a pretzel, it's a fun experience, especially for kids. Tours are about 25 minutes long.

Sturgis is located at 219 East Main Street (Route 772), and is closed Sundays. Visit www.juliussturgis.com for more information, or call 717.626.4354. Reservations are not needed for the tour for groups under 10 people.



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Ghost Tour Brings Spooky Legends of Lancaster to Life

By Clinton Martin

Lancaster City is the oldest inland city in the United States, which should tame any raised eyebrows at the notion that Lancaster has a wealth of legend and lore regarding paranormal activity, haunting tales of otherworldly vigils, fatal curses, and star-crossed lovers. I can personally attest that Ghost Tours of Lancaster's nightly walking tour of historic downtown Lancaster will keep

you wondering long after your trip home. Make a reservation online at www.ghosttour.com/lancaster or by phone at 717.687.6687. Follow these directions for parking, which can be tricky for the first-timer to the City.

Set your GPS for 42 N Prince St, Lancaster, PA 17603. This is the address for The Ware Center, a performing arts center, located right across the street from one of the easiest to navigate public parking lots in Lancaster. The fee is reasonable.



You get a ticket when you enter, and when you exit, you hand in your ticket. Cash or credit card is accepted. The parking attendant is there until 6:00pm on Sundays, 10:00pm Mondays, and 11:00pm every other day. If you park here, you'll just walk up the hill towards the Marriott hotel (one of the highest buildings in Lancaster, easy to spot, passing by the Central Market, also a famous landmark.) The Ghost Tour departs from the Soldiers & Sailors Monument, which is right in front of the Marriott.

Or, if you'd prefer to park in a parking garage, the Marriott has its own garage. The entrance is around back, behind the hotel. Set your GPS for 28 S Duke St, Lancaster, PA 17602, and that will take you right to the entrance. It's called The Penn Square Garage. This parking garage is automated, so it is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You'll have to walk through the Marriott, down into the lobby, and out into the square from the hotel entrance, but the Soldiers & Sailors monument is easy to spot right in front of the hotel.

Prepare yourself for one haunting night on the town! 



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Amish Country's Dutch Baskets Goes Amazon

By Clinton Martin

I like to call Dutch Baskets the Amazon of Amish Country. But no, Mr. Bezos, you don't have to call your lawyers. That's not their slogan. Dutch Baskets, located right here in Lancaster County, says their mission is to find the best foods indigenous to Amish Country and package them into gift baskets, sending smoked meats, handmade cheeses, shoo-fly pies, whoopie pies, chow chow and jams, to customers all over the U.S.

Dutch Baskets provides the perfect remembrance of your trip to friends and family back home. There are even theme baskets for corporate gifts or special occasions. Who doesn't enjoy being surprised with a gift basket on their birthday, anniversary, or any other special day?

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☐ Spring (April/May)

☐ June

☐ July

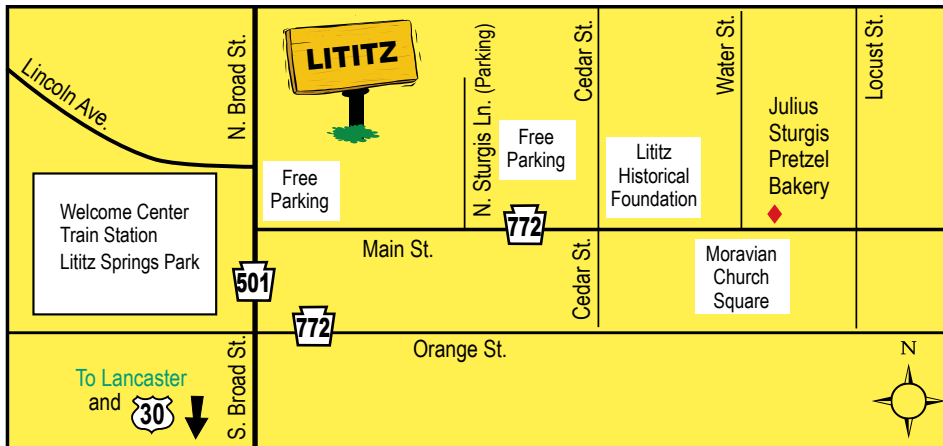
☐ August

☐ September

☐ October

☐ Holiday-Winter

Historic Lititz...A Hometown Treasure



There's no place quite like Lititz, and visitors should plan time there while in Amish Country. The Lititz story is tied to that of the Moravian faith in Bohemia. As was the case with other persecuted religious groups in Europe, many Moravians sought freedom in the New World, arriving in the early 1700's, with settlements in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. In 1755 the town actually took the name Lititz, the German spelling for Lidice, where European reformers had taken refuge in the 15th century.

Music and education were important to the Moravians. In fact, the Lititz schoolhouse erected in 1746 marked the beginnings of what was to be Linden Hall, the oldest continuously operating residence school for girls in the United States.

For one hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in the town. It was not until 1855 that non-Moravians were allowed to own their own homes. The complex of buildings comprising

the Moravian congregation is well worth seeing, particularly the church built in 1787.

One name is linked forever with the history of Lititz—Julius Sturgis. He opened the first commercial pretzel bakery in the New World

in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places. A tour of the bakery, still in operation, is unlike any other and well worth your time. 🐾



Forest Hills Leather Craft represents fine Amish handmade artistry. Visit this family run workshop just north of Route 23 near the town of Leola. See ad on page 23.

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Magic Lantern performances, although foreign to modern day audiences, were the most popular form of entertainment in America in the late 1800s, before there were movies. Using a gorgeous wood and brass antique lantern, the performers or “Showmen” would take their audiences on a journey unlike anything they had experienced before.

Weaving tales of drama, mystery and comedy, these Showmen projected remarkably detailed hand-painted images on screens measuring as tall as two stories. Indeed, a show's success depended upon the Showman's ability to capture the attention and the imagination of his audience, as he deftly manipulated oversized glass slides in and out of lanterns possessing one, two, or in rare cases, even three sets of lenses from which special effects could be created to enhance the illusion of the Showman's story.



The Magic Lantern season begins July 1 with Sullivan's lively interpretation of the Patriotic Show, “This Is My Country,” which traces the history of the United States from

its early beginnings through the 19th century. The tale is told through the eyes of seven generations of the Sullivan family, whose images are among the over 100 that appear to highlight and transition theater goers from the landing at Plymouth Rock to the emotional revelation of two brothers on opposite sides of the Civil War.

The Theater is fortunate to actually own two magnificent lanterns dating back to the 1800s, known as triunials, for the three separate and distinct lenses available to the Showman in performance. Both lanterns were made in England and are believed to be two of the fewer than 100 such lanterns in existence today worldwide, of which only 40 are operational.



The Magic of the Lantern at Plain & Fancy Farm

Special to AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

Showman Mark Sullivan with the 1890's “triunial” lantern.

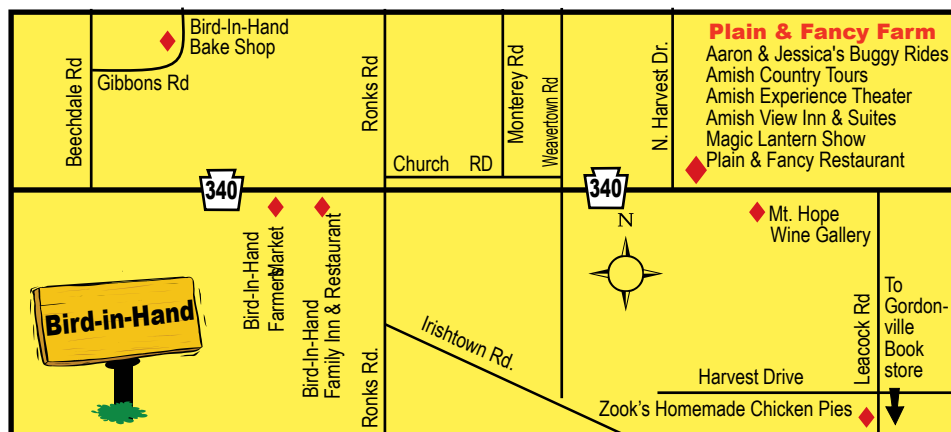
In the grandest traditions of these Magic Lanternists, Mark Sullivan, resident Showman and Artistic Director at the Plain & Fancy Theater, RT 340, east of Lancaster between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse, brings decades of theatrical experience to his role as “Professor Phineas T. Firefly.” Mark's resume includes extensive credits as a comic actor, writer and director. He has performed at Disney World, created and directed the “Congo Comedy Corps” at Busch Gardens in Tampa, in addition to his time most recently spent at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire where he served as artistic director. Mark likes to tell his audience members that if he can't make them laugh, they better check their pulse!

Integral to the telling of “This Is My Country” is the soundtrack created for the show, which is comprised of both original pieces and period favorites, including “Pineapple Rag” and “Lincoln and Liberty.” This musical feast was even nominated for a Grammy Award. The Showman's animated performance, a fascinating story to which so many can readily relate, the unusual musical soundtrack which seamlessly fits the show, and surprising special effects all combine to captivate audiences today, just as they did decades ago.

The Patriotic Show runs until September 4th, Tuesdays through Saturdays with evening performances at 7 P.M. Tickets are available online at MagicLanternTheater.com and by phone at 717.768.8400 Ext. 213.

Dinner and show combination tickets are available online and include the build your own plated feast at Plain & Fancy Restaurant, GPS destination address for the Theater is 3121 Old Philadelphia Pike, Ronks, PA, 17572

Welcome to the Village of Bird-in-Hand



sign in front of the inn, which became known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn, is known to have once "portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched."

Variations of this sign appear throughout the town today. McNabb's Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1851. By the following year, a three-story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was Bitzer's Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, a beautiful bed and breakfast property. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County states that the existing brick building "may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity." It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When referring to their bird in hand symbol, some residents say that the bird nestled in the human hand indicates friendship, comfort, and hospitality, all of which you'll discover in this perfectly delightful little village of shops, farmers markets and eateries.

Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand. William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods, and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward from Philadelphia. The trip by stagecoach, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building. The reason for the signs was so that they could be

understood by all nationalities. Further, since many teamsters or wagoners were poorly educated they could not read. Given orders to stop at a certain inn, they were able to do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.

The legend of the naming of Bird-in-Hand dates to the time when the Old Philadelphia Pike was being laid out. By 1734, surveyors at McNabb's Hotel were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or return to Lancaster to spend the night. One of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The

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Greetings From the Lapp's Toys Family

By John Lapp,
Proprietor

Lapp's Toys is a small, family-owned business in Lancaster which specializes in toy product manufacturing. The company was started in the late 1970s, when my father's cousin was no longer able to work in construction, and wanted to use his skills to do something else that he enjoyed.

Starting small, he opened the business offering only a few products. Thirty-five years later,

we offer over 100 different specialty items, including some from his original, classic patterns.

I started working for the business when I was 15, and steadily worked my way up from sanding and assembling small parts to sorting and cutting lumber down to size. These days, I spend most of my time in the wood shop, operating machinery and completing final sandings. My brother, Amos, found his niche in the paint room.

In the fall of 2007, the original owner decided it was time to move on and spend more time



Special to AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

with family. It was then I decided that if I could convince Amos and Dad (Jonathan) to join me in a partnership, I would be willing to move from employee to employer. Amos agreed with the idea of going back into woodworking and, as it worked out, my Dad was feeling ready to hand over his dairy farm to someone a bit younger.

Our 18-inch doll furniture has always been a popular item (with over 20 different pieces), while the small, very classic toys have really helped the business grow over the past few years. We try to develop 3-6 new designs each year.

Products range from all-wooden children's kitchen and dining room play sets, to small cars, trucks, and wooden key chains. Our handmade marble track rollers fascinate both young and old with switch tracks, stairways, and even bells.

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Mr. Sticky's Stickies — A Sweet Treat

By Clinton Martin

Mr. Sticky's Homemade Sticky buns are truly an amazingly sticky work of pastry art. They are fabled to be extremely addicting, and I've found no evidence to contradict that. I can confirm that once you enjoy one, you'll want to experience the baked bliss over and over again. And since there are a number of different flavors and toppings, you can try Mr. Sticky's for days on end.

Mr. Sticky's is located at 501 Greenfield Road, sharing the same parking lot as the Discover Lancaster Visitors Center. Call for more information, 717.413.9229. Open daily except Sundays.

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Confessions of a Super Saver Visitor

By Clinton Martin

I've always enjoyed getting the most out of getaway experiences, but I've always kept an eye out for coupons, deals, bargains, and steals. Is it possible to get the most without spending my way to the top? I've found the answer can be a resounding, "Yes!" Whether I've been at the beach, in the mountains, visiting a theme park, or even exploring here locally the Amish Countryside, I've found there's a good deal around almost every corner.

The Super Saver Package at the Amish Experience is one of those half-day, all-encompassing itineraries that includes a fully rounded-out experience of Amish culture, history, values and modern day lifestyle at an excellent price point. The package includes four activities, an Experiential Theater, Old Order Amish House & One Room School, Amish Farmlands Tour, and Buggy Ride.

The showing of "Jacob's Choice" at the Theater is somewhat hard to describe. Far more than a movie, but not a play, the Theater features a three dimensional barn set, plus Orlando-like special effects. The visuals unfold on five different screens. But beyond the "wow" of the technology is a moving and hard-to-forget story of a young Amish man deciding whether or not



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to make his commitment to the Amish faith, his family and community, or move out into the outside world.

The Amish Country Homestead is a guided Old Order Amish house and one room school tour, Lancaster's only official Heritage Site Amish house, where expert local guides take visitors through nine different rooms and explain the "how" and "why" of Amish customs, Plain clothes, and life without electricity. I have to admit that it is fun sitting at real Amish one-room school desks to learn how eight grades are taught by one teacher.

Then it is off into the Amish farmlands on comfortable 14-passenger touring-buses that venture far out into the Amish countryside. The guide explains Amish farm life, church, "cottage industries," and local history and heritage while incorporating an Amish stop along the way (quilts, crafts, baked goods, etc.)

Finally, a buggy ride is included at Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides, located on the same property as the Amish Experience and the iconic Plain and Fancy Farm Restaurant, on Route

340 between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse. Remember everything is included in one very reasonable price representing a savings of over \$20 if you were enjoying each activity separately. More information about the Super Saver Package can be obtained by calling 717.768.8400 Ext. 210 or online at www.AmishExperience.com.



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Dutch Haven – Shoo-Fly Pie Famous

By Clinton Martin

Whether you are visiting Amish Country for the first time or the fiftieth, there is one rite of passage that must be observed. That is, of course, removing an ooey-gooyey,

crumb-topped and molasses bottomed slice of Shoo-Fly Pie out of a warm-from-the-oven pan, swirling some fresh whipped cream on top, all with only one final destination in mind – your tummy.

At Dutch Haven, the windmill-decked landmark building along Route 30, just a few miles east of the Outlets, they do this for you, and at no charge! Remember, this is the place that made Shoo Fly Pie famous, and free samples are given out to everyone who walks in the door. I suggest you try some with their delicious “root beer.”

Most visitors love the taste so much they buy a pie or two to take home. Dutch Haven also

offers the convenient option to ship a pie to a friend... or give yourself a treat and ship one to yourself!

While the shoo fly pies are certainly Dutch Haven's most famous creation, the famous windmill building is stocked full of interesting gift items, from cool and collectible souvenirs to authentic handmade Amish crafts. T-shirts, hex signs, local jams and jellies, and assorted baked goods are also available.

Visit Dutch Haven 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, seven days a week. Call 717.687.0111 for more information or visit www.dutchhaven.com

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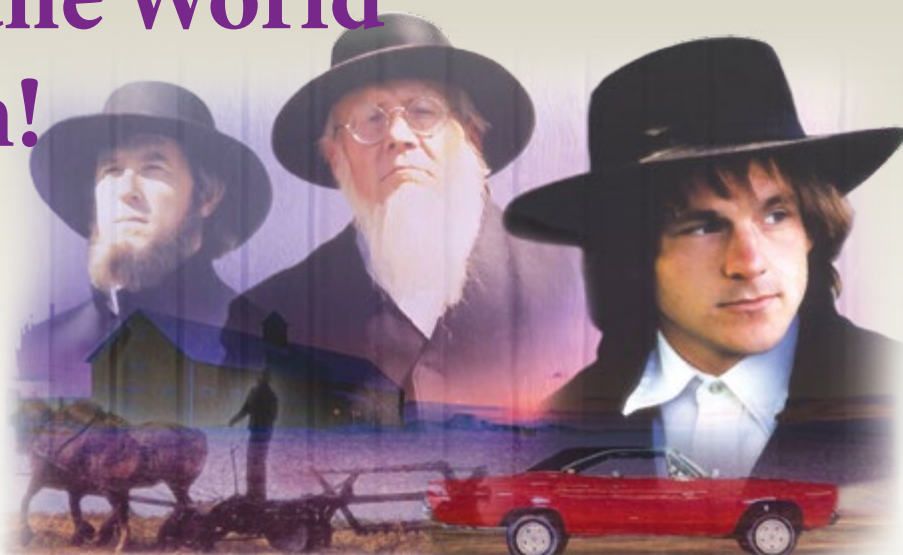
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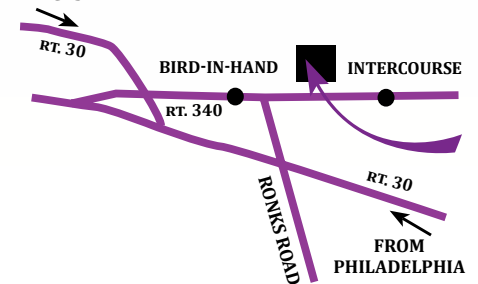
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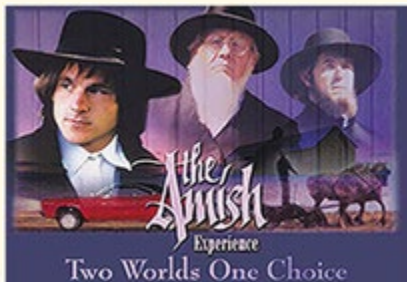
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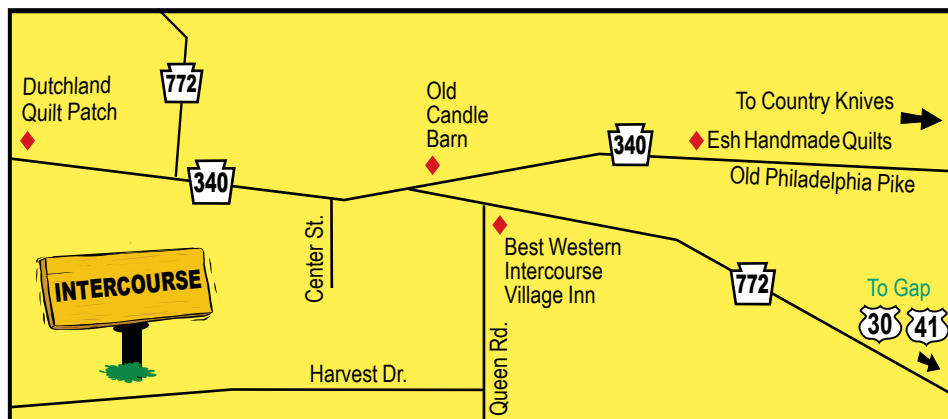
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Welcome to Intercourse, PA



Perhaps no other town in the entire country can claim its fame on just one simple thing... its name. Harrison Ford drove a buggy past the road sign on a memorable visit in the Hollywood blockbuster hit "Witness." For years people have postmarked "Intercourse" on envelopes, and the jokes from visitors who travel through Bird-in-Hand to Intercourse are endless. There are several theories for the name.

Around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (now RT. 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with Lancaster. Conestoga wagons hauled freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing rest for travelers and horses,

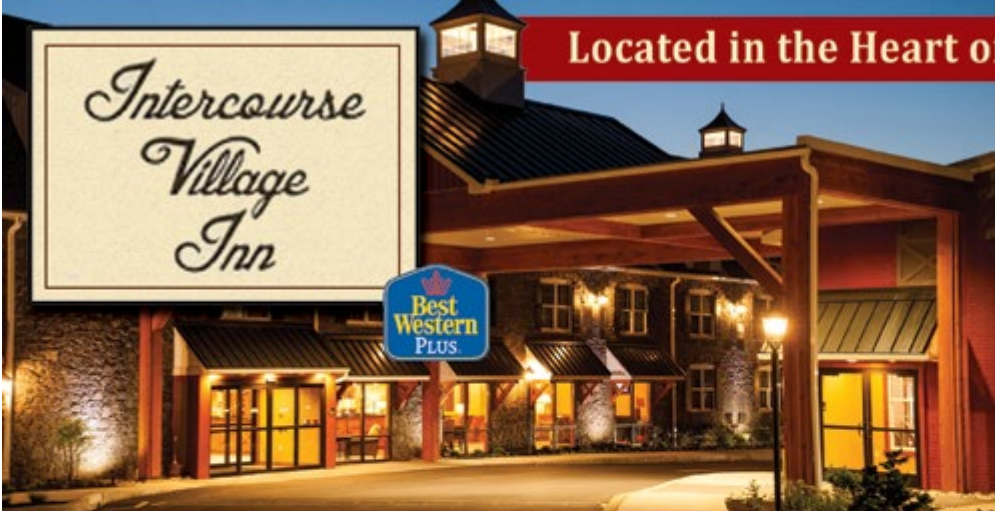
taverns sprouted along the way, becoming centers for news, gossip, and commerce. The construction of a log tavern in 1754 at the intersection of Newport Road and the Highway took "Cross Keys" as its name.

It remained such until 1814, when the name was changed to Intercourse as part of a failed real estate scheme of a Mr. George Brungard, who had acquired 48 acres of nearby land and attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising "151 handsome building lots of \$250 each to be drawn for by number." Renaming the town made sense, as intercourse had a common usage

referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and frequent intermingling which were so common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village. Over time, Brungard's scheme begat others. As recently as 1971, an enterprising soul tried to take advantage of the town's name by selling deeds for one-inch square plots of Intercourse to visitors. Creative, but nonetheless a failure. By 1880, Intercourse had a population of 280 with a post office that actually moved among stores or restaurants as owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

The local stagecoach service started around 1898 as "a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll-up curtain and double set of seats." When the stagecoach driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort on cold days was added to with the placement of hot bricks heated in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve their warmth.

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach era. In 1923 a transit company was organized and bus service initiated to and from Lancaster. While "many of the Amish residents of the area were eager to see the line started, they did not want to invest in stock of the Company. Instead they bought books of tickets which were really prepaid bus fares." Walking the streets of this tiny hamlet is an absolute must-visit for everyone. 🚗



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A Holy Night in Amish Country – The National Christmas Center

By Clinton Martin

Amish Country abounds with unique experiences that can only be had within the borders of Lancaster County. The National Christmas Center is certainly at the top of the list of these one-of-a-kind experiences. You might not be thinking about Christmas in the middle of summer, but Christmas is so much more than just a holiday that rolls around every 12th month of the year. It's warm memories, happy times filled with sharing, holiday cheer, and goodwill to men.

The National Christmas Center captures all these emotions and packs them into one huge family attraction, a museum of treasured moments. The Center is actually a walk-through exhibit of Christmas traditions, practices, stories, and settings, complete with amazingly detailed works of art.

Take for instance, the nearly life-sized, hand-carved nativity that is only one of many tableaus in the Center. Resting quietly in a warehouse for over eighty years, this ¾ life-sized Nativity was donated to the National Christmas Center by Target Stores. The vintage crèche, originally displayed by Marshall Fields & Company (which became part of Target) consists of twenty-two wooden pieces that include the Holy Family, shepherds, kings, camel drivers, musicians, livestock, and three camels that stand almost six feet high.

The carving, particularly the camels, resembles the best in antique carousel figure art, distinctive in every detail depicted by the

artisans who gave it life. One king has an ermine shoulder cape over a heavy robe and undergarment. Each layer is suggested by its own artistic carving. Joseph is holding a lantern with even the link of chain carved of wood. The two bag-pipers included in the tableau suggest the Nativity originated near the Austrian/Italian border. It is estimated that the carvings are approximately one hundred years old.

This is just one of the hundreds of treasures at The National Christmas Center on Route 30, located at 3427 Lincoln Hwy. East, Paradise PA. Call 717.442.7950 or visit their website at www.nationalchristmascenter.com. Truly, it matters not the season nor the day of the year... this very special spot has to be on your list of must-do's. 



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7/7 & 7/8

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Chow Chow The Food, Not the Dog

By Brad Igou

When you visit Amish Country, you may hear us talking about eating a local favorite, chow chow. Don't worry, we are not referring to those cute "Chinese dogs," a breed whose name (Songshi Quan) translates as "puffy lion dog."

Around here, chow chow is a popular relish of pickled vegetables. Pickles and pickled vegetables are popular all over the world, not just because they are tasty, but because they are a great way to preserve these foods to enjoy when they are not in season.

If you have a garden, you might do "canning" over the summer, and as the autumn approaches be left with odd amounts of a few vegetables. Chow chow is the perfect recipe for taking care of those remnant beans, cauliflower, carrots, peas, cucumbers, onions, peppers, etc. The base of vinegar and sugar syrup makes for a nice compliment with the "crispy" veggies.

Recently, I decided to do a little digging into where the name may have come from. As you'll see, there may actually be a Chinese connection.

According to that great online source of information, Wikipedia...

The origin of the term "chow-chow" is obscure. A possible source of the name is the ingredient chayote, which is itself known as chow chow in India. A very common Indian chutney (or thuvayal or thogayal) is made from chayote. The term "chow-chow" is sometimes used

interchangeably with the term "piccalilli" (an English version of Indian-style pickles).

It has also been suggested that the name "chow-chow" is rooted in the French word "chou" for cabbage...[but] the fundamental difference in pronunciation makes this a weak theory. Food historian Luis W. Fernandez claims a connection with Chinese cuisine as an origin.

So in search of this Chinese connection, I found some dictionaries saying this term was Pidgin English for "mixture," probably from the Mandarin Chinese "cha," meaning "miscellaneous." One dictionary dated the words "chow chow" as coming into English around 1785-95. Another source even talks about "the connection to relish recipes of Chinese rail workers in the 1800s."

One dictionary refers to chow chow as "a relish of chopped mixed pickles in mustard sauce." Well, that sounded good to me until we got to the mustard sauce. But, as many readers may

know, there is one version of chow chow here in Dutch Country and a different one in the South.

While we feature chopped mixed vegetables, the Southern version is often shredded cabbage or, as one source noted, the Southern relish is "made with green tomatoes, onions, peppers, and sometimes cabbage...a perfect way to harvest your bountiful crop of tomatoes," and a "great side to any southern meal."

So, while we eat the veggies as a separate cold relish, in the South chow chow is often used as a garnish or condiment on hot dogs, hamburgers, or other foods. The PA Dutch version is also sweeter than some of the other varieties of chow chow you may find outside of the South.

Like everything else, depending on which Amish family or store you purchase your jar of chow chow from, you'll find a different mix of vegetables, and the taste may be sweeter or slightly sour. But one thing you do NOT want to do is feed any chow chow to your chow chow. Ruff! 



Photo courtesy of Discover Lancaster.

The Amish in Their Own Words Vol. 2 - Part Three

by Brad Igou

“The Boy Who Wanted to Work”

Sue sighed loudly. Then she sighed again. And again. It was a warm, warm day in summer and Sue was alone in the kitchen with a large stack of dirty dishes to wash.

If Sue would have filled the dishpan with warm, sudsy water, and tackled the dishes with a will and a song, they would soon have been done. But that is not how Sue washed dishes. She poked around and sighed and felt sorry for herself. And as she poked, the water grew cold and the dirty dishes dried, making the task of washing them harder and harder.

Now Sue loved going to school. It meant she could see her friends every day, and she would have more chances to read. Better yet, she would not have to wash the dinner dishes or break her back pulling weeds in the strawberry patch. “I sure wish school would start,” Sue muttered.

“Well, I don’t,” Mom said. “I need my helpers at home for a while yet. It’s only three weeks until school starts.”

Slowly the days passed. Each one seemed full of work. Sue helped Mom in the kitchen. They peeled and canned peaches, and worked up a lot of sweet corn. They put away jars of tomato juice and pears and vegetable soup. The shelves in the basement nearly sagged under their load.

The day finally came when school started. Sue felt excited as she started out with the other children. Sue was in the sixth grade this year, so she went to the upper-grade side of the room and picked out her desk.

Days went by. On most of the days, the younger children had a game of tag going at recess and noon, while the older ones played ball. Everyone ran and played and had a good time, except Robert Mast. He sat on a small chair or on the schoolhouse steps and watched the other children play. Even though he could not help, he seemed like a part of the game. If someone did well, he cheered. If someone had a close play, he got excited.

Robert didn’t sit and watch the other children play without a good reason. He had been born with a heart defect. His lips and his fingernails were often purple. Robert could never run like other children. He could not work hard, or even walk to school.

Every morning he would sit on his little wagon and his older brother and sister would pull it to school. The other children walking that way

often pulled it. Sometimes they piled all their dinner buckets on the wagon with Robert, and away they would go. The others accepted him as he was. He was their friend --- the friend who needed their help and their love and friendship.

One morning it was time for English class. Each of them was to write an essay on what they would do if they had a whole day to do exactly as they pleased. Sue loved to write and she set to work with a will...

“A Day to Do as I Please”

“I know just what I would do if I had a whole day to myself. I would sleep a long time in the morning. Then I would pack my lunch, gather up some books, and head for the woods. What a lovely, relaxing day I would have! I would not work a thing all day, not even help with the dishes or the milking. I would just read and read and read.”

The essay sounded all right to Sue. She held up her hand for permission to carry it up to the teacher’s desk. Sue could hardly wait until the teacher read each person’s essay aloud. “Maybe I’ll read them, then let you see if you can guess who wrote each one,” Teacher said.

As each one was read, the children scanned the classroom trying to figure out who had written it. Sue was surprised how easy it was. Finally, Teacher picked up the last paper, cleared her throat, then read...

I would get up early. I would milk four cows. I would fill the woodbox. I would help Daddy work. I would work hard all day. I would run and play, too, if I had time.

Several years ago, I started working on a second volume of THE AMISH IN THEIR OWN WORDS, my book compiled from Amish writings in “Family Life” magazine. Since then, for many reasons, my project of producing “Volume 2” remains in limbo. Nevertheless, because I had begun to read and compile articles, I have decided to share some of them with you as my Amish Series for this year.

A hush fell over the classroom. “Well done, Robert,” she said.

That evening Robert rode home on his wagon, just like usual. No doubt he would never know what a big help he had been to Sue that day. Sue felt glad that deep, down inside herself was the feeling that she wanted to do better in helping with the work assigned to her, and sad that Robert would never have a day to do what he wanted to do most – work like a normal person.

Epilogue — One day not long after he wrote the essay, his sick, tired heart stopped and he entered into peaceful rest. Sue has grown up and has learned to enjoy the rewards of a hard day’s work, but she has never forgotten the lesson she learned from Robert, the boy who honestly and sincerely wanted to work. 

Next Month

An Amish writer takes a look at what life is worth.



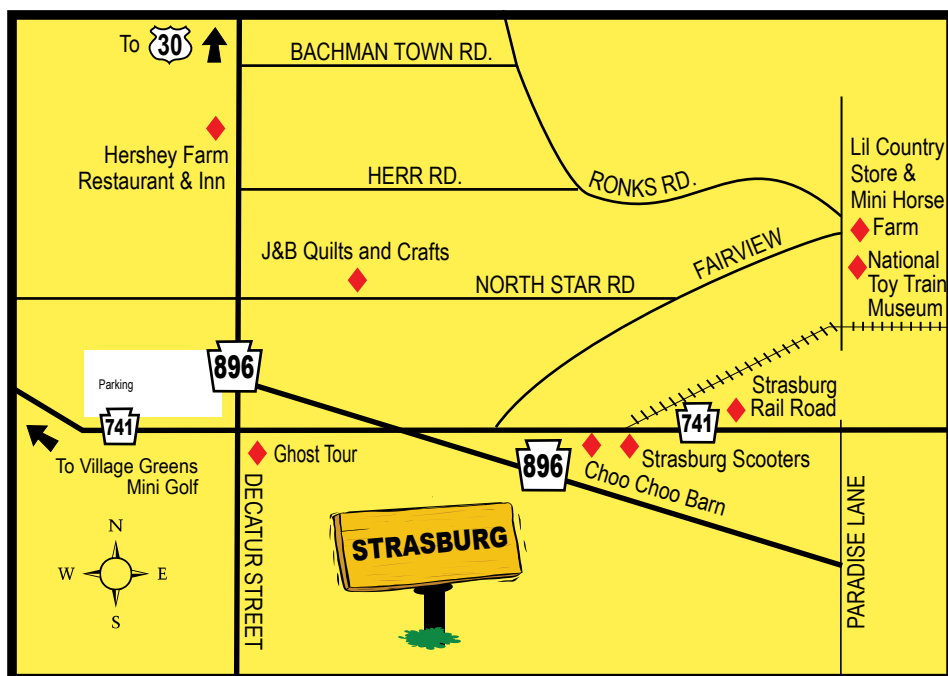
Strasburg – A Town of Trains & Heritage



Families love playing at Village Greens Mini Golf.

ALL ABOARD! Strasburg is a destination all its own in Dutch Country, home to many well known attractions. To name just a few --- the Strasburg Rail Road, Ghost Tours of Lancaster, National Toy Train Museum, and the Choo Choo Barn. But you may not know much about the interesting history of "Train Town." Strasburg, named for the city in France, was actually "founded" by a Frenchman, Pierre Bezaillon, who traded with the Delaware Indians. The story goes he came to the area in 1693, as French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River.

As early as 1716, when the first wagon was used for hauling goods, the path became known



as the Conestoga Road, and the wagons that traveled them eventually became known as Conestoga Wagons. Main Street Strasburg was developed during the next half century as traffic

on this road increased considerably and the first log houses appeared in the village about 1733.

Strasburg continued to flourish in the 18th century primarily because of its location along

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the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and the Susquehanna River. As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial interests of Philadelphia pressured the State Legislature to improve the transportation network into their city. As a result, a series of canals along with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Roads were constructed. Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and there soon emerged a charter for the Strasburg Rail Road to construct a rail line connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Finally in the 1850's, trains were hauling freight and passengers.

About 100 years later, business had dwindled, and a severe storm in 1957 destroyed much of the track. It seemed the srr had reached the end of the line. To the rescue came a group of local train enthusiasts who began bringing the SRR back to life in a totally new way. They added passenger cars and buildings, and today's Strasburg Rail Road was born, destined to become one of Dutch Country's top attractions.

Appropriately enough, the State decided to build an expanded Rail Road Museum of Pennsylvania across the street, the ideal place to preserve the history of railroading in Pennsylvania. With the other train attractions nearby, it's little wonder that Strasburg has earned the title of Train Town! 

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Special to AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

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Other beverages and snacks are also available for purchase.

Highlights of the picturesque 45-minute, round-trip ride from East Strasburg Passenger Station to Paradise, PA., include views of rolling fields, farms, and Amish homesteads; the occasional horse-drawn Amish buggy; happenings at Groff's Grove picnic area and Cherry Crest Adventure Farm; and a pass by the oldest cemetery in Lancaster County. You can make a day out of it by packing a picnic lunch and watch as the trains travel past.

Known as the nation's oldest short-line railroad, Strasburg Rail Road is also a real working railroad, still hauling freight today. Inside the on-site mechanical shop, skilled hands beautifully restore and renovate antique wooden passenger cars for the railroad and other railroads across the country. Tours of the mechanical shop are offered daily at noon.

But the fun doesn't stop there. Enjoy the many other added attractions like a ride aboard the Pint-sized Pufferbelly, a real miniature steam train, a hand-powered pump car, and our cranky cars, for young engineers. For those who like to shop, we have that too, as well as our Trackside Café.

So, escape the ordinary and plan your visit to the Strasburg Rail Road, on Route 741 (301 Gap Road, Ronks). For more information visit their website at www.Strasburgrailroad.com or call 866.725.9666. 

Eating Well at Eden Resort

By Caleb Bressler

You may already know the Eden Resort as long one of Lancaster's finest lodging properties. Centrally located, with easy access to Amish Country, downtown Lancaster and Hershey, plus two pools, upscale rooms, and

even private villas, it's not difficult to see why the Eden is a sought-after place to stay.

But did you know you can experience Eden quality even if you aren't staying there? The resort has three dining options, each unique from the other, that locals regularly enjoy. So, unfold

your napkin and prepare to experience dining at the Eden.

If you are looking for casual dining for lunch or dinner, be sure to stop by Garfield's. You can either order off the menu --- with options like cheesesteak eggrolls, burgers and sandwiches (uniquely served with endless curly fries), salads and entrees --- or from the buffet. The buffet features salad, soup, pizza, pasta and more, all for an extremely reasonable price. If you like spaghetti, don't miss "S'ghetti Night" on Mondays, which includes a plate of spaghetti, the soup and salad bar and an ice-cream Sundae for only \$8.95!

For a more upscale meal, Arthur's Terrace serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. For breakfast, enjoy an elegant buffet which includes eggs any style, meats, potatoes, fresh bakery items, and more. The lunch menu offers light fare, like chicken Caesar salad or a club sandwich, or you can partake of the heartier lunch buffet. For dinner, still an Arthur's signature is its famous prime rib buffet. Entrées off the menu range from filet mignon to chicken parmesan, all of which come with the extensive salad, soup and dessert bar.

If you are nearby on Sunday, treat yourself to the Champagne Sunday Brunch. Rated 5 out of 5 stars on Trip Advisor, this might end up being your only meal of the day. It's served in the hotel's lovely, multi-story courtyard, with splashing fountains and live piano music to enhance the culinary experience.

You can work your way from breakfast to lunch fare, beginning with made-to-order omelets, pancakes, home fries, bacon, lox and bagels, etc. It only gets better from there. A salad bar, made-to-order pasta station, carving station, chicken and seafood creations, and on and on...the hardest thing about dining here is saving room to try everything. Champagne, mimosas, coffee, and soft drinks are all included. Don't forget to check the fabulous dessert tables, which will force you to prioritize as you face a sea of pies, cakes, pastries, and other delightful confections.

Somehow, I feel like you just might now be heading to the Eden for your next meal! If so, you'll need an address: 222 Eden Road, Lancaster PA 17601. You can also view menus and hours online at www.EdenResort.com. Reservations for the Sunday Brunch are highly recommended and can be made by calling 717.569.6444. Bon appetite! 

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10,000 Square Feet of Shopping Adventure — Jake's Country Trading Post

By Caleb Bressler

Don't be surprised if you feel somewhat overwhelmed when you start browsing at Jake's...but in a good way. You only have to look at what shoppers say. On TripAdvisor, it's been regularly praised in such terms as a "favorite stop for our girl's weekend away" and "a must to visit." This 10,000 square foot shopping haven is full of all kinds of items for the home --- in fact you could almost decorate your entire house without leaving the parking lot!

If you are considering a home makeover, or just want a "spruce up," the kitchen is always a great place to start. To give a new look to your crockery, try the Sawmill Stoneware Collection with its rustic maple-colored dishes, just the right platters in which to showcase stew on a cold winter evening.

Or, try the Star Vine Ceramics collection for autumn. This casual, country-style collection has plates, mugs, bowls and even casserole dishes.

Jake's also features a collection of cook-books, such as Copycat Candy Bars, Over a Fire Cookbook and Pennsylvania Dutch Cooking, all of which contain cool ideas for your next dinner party.

When your home isn't filled with the aromas from cooking, enjoy the eclectic fragrances from Jake's collection of scented candles. Try one of the signature pie candles such as apple or peach, which are whimsically shaped like pies. There is

also a selection of jar candles, with scents ranging from "Creamsicle" to "Blue Lagoon," as well as candle warmers and oil diffusers.

Moving on to the living room, choose from homey plaid curtains to brighten your windows, which can easily be further accented with swags and valances. To add texture and color to the floors, select a braided rug from Jake's expansive collection. One of my favorites is "Cider Barn" from Green World Rugs, a rectangle rug with swirls of red and shades of green, accented with browns.

For the Fourth of July, check out the patriotically themed hooked pillow for your sofas or American flag hand towels for the kitchen or bathroom.

You'll enjoy browsing the clever lighting accessories to brighten your home. One that caught my eye was the Lumberton Lantern. The base of the lamp is a lantern with a faux candle flame inside, which would add elegance to a study, office or library.

There is also décor for outside the home at the more modestly sized store right next door. Outside are a variety of fountains and statuettes for the garden. There is also a selection of vinyl furniture, from rockers to stationary chairs, which come in a variety of colors.

TRAIN FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

When you are ready to start your shopping adventure, you will find Jake's Country Trading Post at 2954 Lincoln Highway East, Gordonville, PA 17529. That's on Route 30 near Paradise, just a couple miles east of the outlets. Jake's is open 7 days a week but hours vary, so check the website at www.jakeshomeaccents.com. You can also call 717.687.8980 for more information.



IT'S A FIRST RATE PROBLEM! That's what the management at the Amish Experience concluded when there were demands for a daytime version of its evening Amish Visit-in-Person Tour, a once-a-day excursion restricted to 14 guests per tour.

The "Amish v.i.p. Tour" provides an intimate, interactive experience directly with the Amish. Introduced experimentally in 2008 and greeted enthusiastically, the tour has continued to grow in demand and popularity. Some visitors actually take the tour multiple times so they can meet different Amish that might be included on any given tour night.

Limited to 14 people to assure a very special personal experience, the Monday through Saturday tour has been expanded to include two daytime offerings July through Labor Day. Departure times for the daytime tours are 10:30

weaver, mini-horse farm, or even a carriage maker, to name but a few. In some cases, there are demonstrations of the proprietor's craft.

The third v.i.p. stop is the simplest, and often the most meaningful. For the Amish, to "visit" is simply to sit and chat for a while in someone's home, and that's exactly what happens when the group pulls up the lane to an Amish homestead. Guests enter somewhat reluctantly and, while conversation with strangers may be hesitant at first, by the end of the time spent together it is often difficult to pull guests away. Some visitors have even become friends with their Amish hosts, exchanging Christmas cards, recipes, and letters.

The Amish Experience VIP Tour has received the Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence Award and is the only tour designated as an Official Heritage Tour by Lancaster County, through

its Planning Commission. The Commission administers a nationally acclaimed heritage program, which designates sites and even artisans as being authentic representations of aspects of local culture. Designation is through a rigorous process that includes interpretive and authenticity requirements, as well as being "visitor ready."

This tour is meeting real people, one-on-one, where they live and work. For the Amish, simplicity is often the key. And this tour is simply about people getting to know each other as they discover and learn to respect their differences. The stunning backdrop of the Amish farmlands is just icing on the cake.

Tours depart from the Amish Experience Theater at Plain & Fancy Farm, Route 340, between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse. Prices are \$59.95 for adults and \$39.95 for children 6-16. The tour does not allow children under the age of six. Advance reservations are strongly recommended. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Amish Experience Theater, or with Visa or MasterCard by phone 717.768.8400, Ext. 210, or online at www.amishexperience.com. 

Amish Visit-in-Person Heritage Tour Schedule Expands

Special to AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

and 2:30. The traditional twilight tours will continue as always at 5:00 and are currently running through the end of October.

The tour highlights three aspects of Amish life --- on the farm, at work, and at home --- all within the span of three hours.

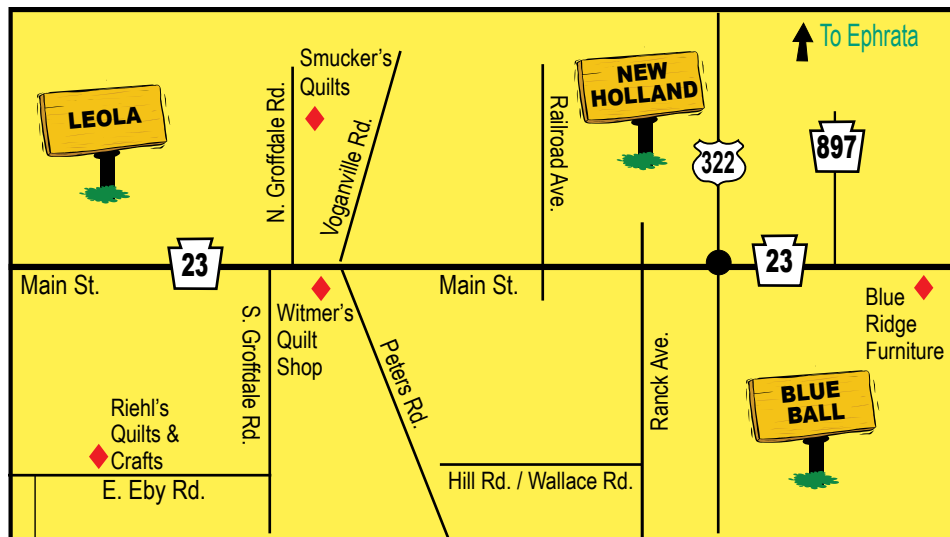


The first stop is at an Amish farm at milking time, where an Amish dairyman explains how the cows are milked and the milk chilled in the bulk tank, all without electricity. He also shares other details of the daily chores involved with farming Amish-style.

The second stop highlights an Amish "cottage industry." Fewer than half the Amish in Lancaster County are farmers and most Amish earn a living other than on the farm. A different "industry" is featured on each tour and may include a furniture maker, greenhouse, soap maker, harness shop, canning kitchen, basket



Welcome to New Holland • Blue Ball



The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square-mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. Himself a Quaker, Penn had experienced religious persecution firsthand, and decided to establish his American colony based on complete religious freedom.

This entire century had been one of continued misery for the peasants of the Palatinate (western Germany). The Thirty Years War had raged across the area with barbaric ruthlessness. The peasant inhabitants fled to nearby Holland for refuge. And within a decade of the end of that conflict, King Louis XIV of France started a new religious war in the same general area. These Palatinate peasants were exhausted by

war's desolation, and were ripe for a new start. Traveling land agents for William Penn's new colony found listening ears. In addition to religious freedom and a peaceful existence, Penn offered cheap land. The stated price was 100 English pounds for 5,000 acres.

By 1728, William Penn had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania, was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds.

In 1802, when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no objection to naming the town New Holland. These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them, and the assistance that included funds to cover the cost of the refugee German immigrants' ocean voyage.

This was no small matter when the alternative was indentured service for a period of years. For adults, indenture frequently meant four to seven years of labor without pay. Minors served until their 21st birthday. But still, William Penn's Quaker Pennsylvania was liberation compared to the Europe they fled seeking freedom of religion, assembly and speech for all, hopefully, none of which we take for granted today.

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Best New Old-Fashioned Way to Enjoy Chicken – Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies

By Clinton Martin

If you've perused Amish Country News the last five years or so, you've read about Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies. Such happens to be my devotion to these full-flavor encrusted meat pies that I've written countless editorials about them. However, this shall not be another entry in a long line of Zook's Pie epistles. Puffery and

flowery language aside, I'm diving right in with a straightforward Zook's Pie tasting experience. Rather than sharpen my pencil, I polished my fork for some "homework" with my family.

With a mission on my mind and dinner in tow, home I drove with my Zook's Chicken Pie, knowing the flavors I was about to savor were neatly held in frozen suspension. Zook's is not a restaurant. The pies are frozen for takeout only. You take them home, to your RV or campsite, and enjoy them hot out of your oven in just a few minutes. Much like the Sirens tempted Odysseus, I have long become increasingly tantalized by the aromatic waves of delectable smells wafting about my house.

Eventually on this day, I was able to free the pie from the oven's 350-degree purgatory and place it in the center of our dining room table.



Though simple and unpretentious, it was the most beautiful and tastiest centerpiece we'd had in a long time. But, I didn't dig in right away. After the journey from its Ronks birthplace and its graduation from the oven's finishing school, it was time for it to "rest." Soon satisfied that the pie was ready, I sliced out a generous portion for my wife, our children, and myself.

Since this was to serve not only as dinner, but also as a critical review, I gingerly took a bite and slowly, pensively allowed time for my palate's exploration. It was a wonderful, unobstructed pleasure. The main ingredient was clearly the chicken in a delicious thick gravy, allowing the chunks of juicy, tender white meat to float like little pillows of poultry. Other obvious ingredients were celery and the rather surprising inclusion of peas, which lent an important flavor profile.

My plate quickly cleaned, I was barely able to restrain my hand from instantly reaching for seconds which were, by the way, every bit as tasty as the firsts. I encourage you to pick up your own Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies at the family farmstead, or would that be "bakestead," at 3194 Harvest Drive in Ronks. Turn south off Route 340, between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse, onto Old Leacock Road. After less than two miles, you'll come to Harvest Drive. Turn right. You'll see the farm to your left. If you need more information, call ahead. 717.768.0239. But remember, as this is an Amish establishment, you'll have to leave a voice mail. Happy eating! 

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Gettysburg – A Divided Country's Turning Point

by Brad Igou

We could probably make a strong argument that when people think of Pennsylvania, they primarily think of four destinations, all just a short drive from Amish Country. The other three are, of course, Philadelphia, Hershey, and Gettysburg.

Readers will immediately identify nearby Gettysburg with the Civil War. Here are a few quick facts. Between July 1-3, 1863, Maj. Gen. George Meade's Union Army defeated attacks by Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army, ending Lee's attempt to invade the North. Often described as the turning point in the war, this was the bloodiest battle, with the largest number of casualties. Not long after the battle, President Lincoln came to the cemetery to give what is arguably the most famous American speech, the Gettysburg Address.

Today, visitors are fortunate to have so many excellent resources available to really gain an in-depth understanding of those fateful days, and see where those events actually took place, as they walk this "Hallowed Ground."

The place to begin is the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center. Gone are the days of the "Electric Map" and the somewhat musty displays. Now this spectacular center houses a state-of-the-art museum with fascinating artifacts, interactive displays, and information not only about the big events, but also the many individual stories of those involved in the struggle.

Then a film narrated by Morgan Freeman sets the stage for viewing the truly amazing Cyclorama, a 360-degree painting of Pickett's Charge that was completed a few years after the



Photos courtesy of Destination Gettysburg.

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battle itself. Recently restored and preserved, this 4-story high, longer-than-a-football-field mural places you in the center of the battle.

Armed with this historical background, you are now ready for a tour of the battlefield itself, and there are various options, from having a licensed guide, to driving around on your own, to taking a bus tour. There is a very reasonably priced option that includes the museum, cyclorama, and bus tour in a combination ticket.

But just as Lancaster is much more than just Amish Country, Gettysburg offers a variety of attractions beyond the battlefield. The town

square is delightful, with many other historic buildings, lodging, shops, theater, and restaurants, all good spots to unwind after a day of sightseeing. You might even want to do a Ghost Tour in the evening.

Many visitors are not familiar with the nearby Eisenhower National Historic Site, the home and farm of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. This was his weekend retreat and a meeting place for world leaders, a much needed respite from Washington, and a backdrop for efforts to reduce Cold War tensions.

You'll want to plan some time for other pursuits, whether that be outlet shopping, visiting wineries, or various outdoor activities. And you may want to check out some of the events you might not associate with Gettysburg --- a beer festival, bike week, apple harvest festival, and even Gettysburg Rocks.

So be sure to plan a visit to Gettysburg and make this small Pennsylvania town that changed the course of history a part of your vacation battle plan. 🐾



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A Place for Reflection. Visitors marvel at the beauty of the battlefield reflecting on its history and how it's shaped our lives today.

Who Knew Ice Cream Could Be So Much Fun... The Turkey Hill Experience

By Clinton Martin

So...you might know Turkey Hill for ice cream, or you might know them for iced tea. In truth, Turkey Hill is equally passionate about both. For years, dating back to 1931, the Frey family of Lancaster County has operated Turkey Hill Dairy and it was then that the vision, albeit an evolving one, was formed.

Butter, cream, and dairy treats were in the family-owned business' repertoire from the beginning. Iced tea was a later addition to the story. The best news is that today visitors can taste and see the Turkey Hill story in a truly fun and interactive way.

The Turkey Hill attraction opened six years ago. It combines an educational visitor center with a hands-on factory tour. And yes, you do get to sample ice cream and iced tea as part of each tour!

The first impression visitors have of the attraction is likely the grand water-tower beside the building, easily seen from the Route 30 highway. It is an easy marker for the proper exit to ice cream Nirvana.

The second impression is probably the strikingly historical façade of the building, an imposing industrial red-brick former silk mill. And then there's the permanent oversized cow mascot normally standing outside the main entrance!

From there, you step inside to be greeted at the high-energy welcome center. You'll be faced with a choice, whether to spend some time enjoying the on-site café, gift shop, and free educational displays, or to add the interactive exhibits for which a nominal admission is charged. While the educational displays are very interesting, the paid portion of the attraction is simply a must-do.

It all starts with a video about the making of ice cream, presented inside a giant ice cream box, of course. The interactive fun goes on to include games like mixing and matching flavorful smells, creating your own virtual ice cream flavor, and a ball pit and slide designed to help explain homogenization and pasteurization.

You can even star in your own Turkey Hill commercial, which you can instantly share through social media! Then "moooove" (sorry for that) on to additional activities, including milking a mechanical cow!

The Turkey Hill Experience is open seven days a week, with hours varying by day. Call 888.986.8784 for current hours. Getting there

is easy. Take the Route 441 (Columbia) exit off of Route 30, west of Lancaster, heading south on Route 441 for only a tenth of a mile. Turn left at the first traffic light to enter the parking lot. GPS destination is 301 Linden Street, Columbia PA. 





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In addition, you will see your photo in the pages of Amish Country News!

Other prizes will also go to the first, second, and third runners-up. They will be judged on quality, color, subject matter, etc.

All submitted photos become the property of Amish Country News and the Amish Experience. Photos may also be used in upcoming issues, in other publications, and/or for other promotional purposes. Keep in mind that these photos are for publication, cannot be returned, and should depict a scene, aspect, event, or activity typical to Lancaster or the Pennsylvania Dutch Country region.

We accept photos via email, and request no more than 10 photos by the same person be submitted. Each photo submitted should contain your name, address, phone and email address. Any details on the location, date, or subject matter of the photograph should also be included.

To enter, send 8x10 photos at high resolution (300 dpi) and in .jpg format to: editor@amishnews.com (Please put "2017 photo contest" in the subject line)

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The idea of “Hub & Spoke” has become popular with visitors. You can stay in one central location, and do short day trips to other nearby destinations from your base. In Amish Country, hub and spoke locations are many. Here are a few that are popular with visitors, all from the home base of Lancaster...

Lancaster to Hershey: 30 Miles Driving Time: 40 Minutes

For most people, the name Hershey means chocolate. Visitors notice streets with names like Cocoa and Chocolate Avenues and streetlights in the shape of Hershey Kisses. The factory and town, founded by candy entrepreneur Milton S. Hershey, is now a destination all its own, and Hershey Park has become one of the top theme parks in the world.

Mr. Hershey used his millions to create a world-famous school for orphan children that to this day remains one of the great examples of American philanthropy. In 1910 Milton and Catherine Hershey started their school with four orphan boys. (They had no children of their own.) In 1918, Hershey left his entire personal fortune to the school, making headlines in the New York Times. The school is probably the finest childcare facility of its kind in the world. It provides room & board, medical and dental services, and education for children in need at no cost to their parent or guardian.

At the center of the school campus stands Founder's Hall, which was built as a tribute to Mr. Hershey. The huge domed rotunda makes it one of the most impressive structures in the Western Hemisphere, a definite “must-see” when you visit the town. The statue dedicated to him in Founders Hall reads, “His deeds are his monument. His life is our inspiration.”

When visiting Hershey, your starting point should be HERSHEY'S CHOCOLATE WORLD. Did you know that Hershey kisses were first introduced in 1907, and that the Hershey plant can produce 24 million kisses in one day? Enjoy the fun on the exciting and educational

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#ChocolateWorld

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Open year-round (Closed 12/25)

chocolate-making tour ride, and get a free sample after your trip. Remember, admission to the Chocolate World ride is FREE! Information on other Hershey area attractions is available here as well.

Another popular attraction in the Chocolate World building is “Hershey’s Really Big 3-D Show,” a fun-filled special effects show that is a comical and exciting three-part musical story kids will enjoy. The 30-minute show is presented in full cinema HD.

Also popular is “Hershey’s Create Your Own Candy Bar.” Since you can’t go into the actual factory, why not pretend by making your very own candy bar in this re-created factory setting. You’ll design the packaging on the computer, create your own bar, perhaps with your name on it, and mix the ingredients and toppings you desire. What could be better than creating your very own Hershey’s candy bar? Eating it, perhaps!

But Hershey’s is also more than just candy bars. So why not check out the “Dessert Creation Studio,” and see how creative you can be using chocolate to fashion your own special desserts.

After these activities, you will still want to allow some time for the Chocolate Tasting Adventure, Marketplace Shops, and Bake Shoppe. Trolley tours of the town of Hershey depart from the Chocolate World entrance as well.

So, even if you’ve visited Hershey before, it’s time to once again follow the smell of chocolate to the “Sweetest Place on Earth.”

Lancaster to Gettysburg: 60 Miles Driving Time: 1 Hour 45 Minutes

Gettysburg is the place where 165,000 soldiers met to fight for their beliefs. It is the place where Abraham Lincoln helped mend a torn nation with his Gettysburg Address, and the place where millions have stood to reflect on the importance of the events that occurred here.

Each year, millions of visitors experience the thought-provoking exhibitions and programs of the Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park. Here, priceless artifacts from one of the world’s largest collections of Civil War relics are on display. America’s largest painting – the Gettysburg Cyclorama – will immerse you in the sights and sounds of Pickett’s Charge, the climactic event of the three-day Battle of Gettysburg.

Included with a ticket to the Cyclorama experience is a film, “A New Birth of Freedom,” narrated by Morgan Freeman. The film explains Gettysburg’s important place in American history and complements a visit to the Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War.

Licensed Battlefield Guide tours and shuttles to the Eisenhower National Historic Site can also be purchased from the Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park.

Finally, you can augment your Civil War experience with another possible side trip, to the superb National Civil War Museum in our State capital of Harrisburg.

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Publisher's Message



AN ODE TO THE ROADSIDE STAND

By Brad Igou

I grew up here in Amish Country, although I was a “city kid” growing up in Downton Lancaster. As a boy going with my parents to our incredible farmers’ markets... Roots, Green Dragon and the City’s landmark Central Market, I took for granted all the fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and baked goods that we enjoyed every day. I probably also thought roadside stands were normal everywhere.

To this day, one of the most amazing things about some of our roadside stands is the “honor system” of payment. While some of the larger stands are “manned,” frequently by children, often times you’ll simply see strawberries, corn, flowers, or other items on a table with a container in which to drop your money. Having the exact change is helpful, but I have already opened the container to make change (hoping no one was watching and thinking I was robbing the “cookie jar.”)

One Amishman, who sells tons (literally) of pumpkins at his farm, also operates as “self-service,” but his payment container is a big oil drum chained into the ground. I’m not sure how he gets the money out of there once it is dropped in the little hole on the top!

Part of the fun of driving around Amish Country is discovering the many different

things for sale. Amish kids selling lemonade is not an unusual sight. In the autumn you’ll find the ever-so-colorful Indian corn. Needless to say there are all kinds of seasonal fruits and vegetables, from strawberries, cantaloupes, and watermelons, to string beans, tomatoes, and our unmatched fresh corn. Oh, that corn! Just picked, husked, hurried home, boiled, brushed with butter dashed with a pinch or two of salt, it’s a timeless, heavenly summer treat.

No matter where you drive, you are never far from baked goods... homemade bread, cookies, cakes, fry pies, sticky buns, fruit pies, apple dumplings, and the ubiquitous shoofly pie. It’s amazing how many variations on the basic shoofly pie you’ll find, including wet or dry bottom, some with spices, others with chocolate icing on top.

If you’re like me, you’ll find your “favorite” stand for baked goods, and keep going back. However, it’s always fun to try a “new place” you just happen upon.

If you end up frequenting a particular stand, you might become a “regular” and get to know the family members that work there. If you are local, you might even watch some of the kids grow up before your eyes from visit to visit.

And most Amish kids actually know how to make change! Try giving most modern kids \$5.25 when your bill is \$3.25 and see what happens. The last time I did that, my quarter was returned with a confused look and the words “That’s too much.”

So in this world of mega supermarkets and “prepared foods,” it’s a throwback to a different time and place when people purchased fresh foods right on the farm, directly from the family that grew or produced them. However, if you see oranges or pineapples for sale at an Amish stand, they were NOT grown around here! 

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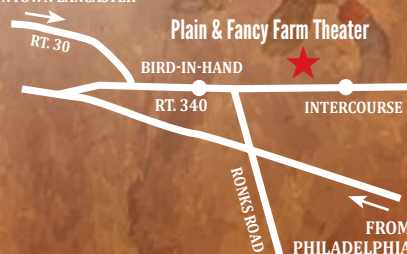
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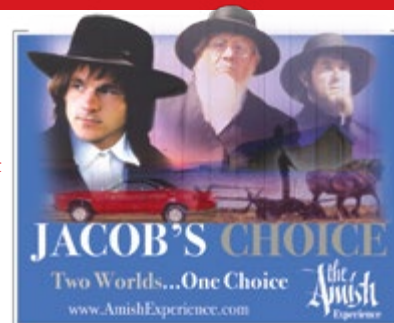
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RIDES & PRICES



The Cookie Run

Adults \$10 Children \$6

A 20 to 25 minute ride through Amish farms with a brief stop at a farm stand. Your opportunity to purchase home-made cookies, root beer, pretzels and lemonade. Get a taste of real Amish life. Available Monday thru Saturday (see *The Sunday Ride* below).

Amish Town Tour Adults \$15 Children \$8

A 30 to 35 minute tour passing an Amish village, businesses and an all Amish farm area. Experience real Amish life. Available Monday thru Saturday (see *The Sunday Ride* below).

Amish Farm Tour Adults \$22 Children \$12

A 50 to 60 minute, Customer Preferred Ride. Visit a real Amish Farm, tour the barn, see the cows and big draft horses. America the way it used to be. Available Monday thru Saturday (see *The Sunday Ride* below).

The Sunday Ride Adults \$16 Children \$8

This 30 to 35 minute tour is the only ride available on Sundays. The Sunday Ride is a lovely tour through an all Amish area. There are no stops on this ride due to the Amish's observance of the Sabbath.

Amish Journey Private Rides

Longer tours in your own Amish buggy. Tours vary from one hour 20 minutes to almost two hours. Tour miles of Amish farmland on a visit to an Amish store, pass a water powered flour mill still in operation for local Amish folks. See the animals at the Farm Store and shop for fresh baked goods and local crafts. Reservations recommended. Please ask for pricing. Available Monday thru Saturday.

Email Us For Details: amishbuggyrides@gmail.com

Summer Hours – Open 7 Days A Week
Weekdays and Saturdays – 9 AM to 7 PM
Sundays 10 AM to 4 PM
Children Rate 12 yrs. and Under
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